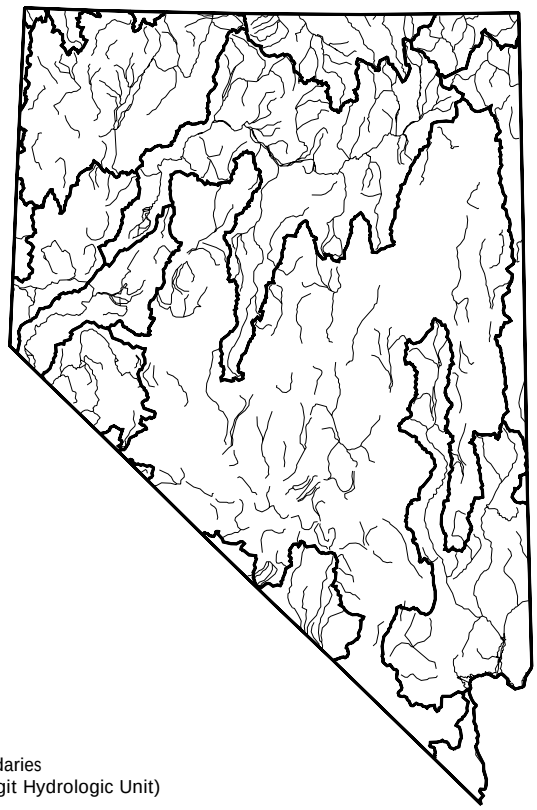
Nevada



Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Nevada 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Only 10% (about 15,000 miles) of Nevada's rivers and streams flow year round, and most of these waters are inaccessible. For this reporting period, Nevada assessed 1,631 miles of the 3,000 miles of accessible perennial streams for aquatic life uses. Fifty-one percent of the assessed stream miles fully supported this use, while 42% partially supported aquatic life use and 7% did not support this use. In lakes, 74% of the assessed acres fully supported aquatic life uses.

Agricultural practices (irrigation, grazing, and flow regulation) have the greatest impact on Nevada's water resources. Agricultural sources generate large sediment and nutrient loads. Urban drainage systems contribute nutrients, heavy metals, and organic substances that deplete oxygen. Flow reductions also have a great impact on streams, limiting dilution of salts, minerals, and pollutants.

Ground Water Quality

Nevada lacks comprehensive ground water protection legislation, but the state does have statutes that control individual sources of contamination, including mining, underground storage tanks, septic systems, handling of hazardous materials and waste, solid waste disposal, underground injection wells, agricultural practices, and wastewater disposal. Land use statutes also enable local authorities to implement Wellhead Protection Plans by adopting zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and site plan review procedures. Local authorities can implement certain source control programs at the local level.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

Nevada's Nonpoint Source Management Plan aims to reduce NPS pollution with interagency coordination, education programs,

and incentives that encourage voluntary installation of best management practices. The state's current approach to controlling nonpoint sources is to seek voluntary compliance through nonregulatory programs of technical and financial assistance, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and education. In 1994, the state updated the *Handbook of Best Management Practices* and supported NPS assessment activities in each of the state's six major river basins. Nevada's Wellhead Protection Program was finalized in January of 1994.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

Several state, federal, and local agencies regularly sample chemical and physical parameters at over 100 sites in the 14 hydrologic regions of the state. The state also coordinates intensive field studies on Nevada's major river systems, the Truckee River Basin, Carson River Basin, Walker River Basin, and the Humboldt River Basin. The state also monitors a number of lakes and reservoirs. Additional monitoring data are provided by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Nevada Division of Agriculture (pesticide detection).

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.
[a] A subset of Nevada's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.
[b] Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Nevada

Designated Use[a]		Percent				
		Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 143,578)[b]						
	Total Miles Assessed	51	-	42	7	-
	1,631					
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1,542	87	-	12	2	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 533,279)						
	Total Acres Assessed	74	-	8	18	-
	212,336					
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	173,444	100	-	<1	0	-

Summary of Use Support in Nevada

	Percent		
	Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Impaired (For One or More Uses)
Wetlands (Total Acres = 136,650)			
Total Acres Assessed	100		
21,326		-	0

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.